

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Kummersdorf Bombing Range

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 June 1954

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REFERENCES PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch with legend

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REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Between 22 and 26 March, and on 31 March, 1, 2, 3, and 5 April 1954, bombing was practiced by single-engine aircraft at Kummersdorf bombing range. Sometimes, the practices were conducted as follows: The aircraft successively approached in 3 waves flying in close-order formation from the southeast at an altitude of about 500 meters and attacked the targets approximately every 1 1/2 hours throughout the day. Each wave consisted of 10 to 15 Il-10s. The first wave crossed the targets in Jagen (forest-sub-district) 103 without bombing, then flew a large left bank, and subsequently again approached the targets from the southeast, dropping one bomb from each aircraft. While the first wave approached for bombing, the second wave crossed the targets in Jagen 111, also flew a left bank, and then attacked the targets. The same procedure was conducted by the third wave over the targets in Jagen 120. Subsequently, the attacks at the same targets were repeated by the 3 waves. At the third approach, the aircraft came down to about 50 meters above the ground and the individual waves fired at their targets with aircraft weapons. a fourth approach during which one of the three waves flew a smaller circle, and while flying in close-order formation along the firing range, attacked the three targets. During the attacks, jet fighters were repeatedly observed aloft.

diagrammatic

sketch of the bombing procedure observed.

2. Between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on 20 April, 18 to 27 single-engine aircraft practiced bombing at intervals of about one hour. On 21, 22 and 23 April, there was bombing by jet aircraft. The first 3 swept-back jet aircraft appeared about 7 a.m. They kept a distance of about 200 meters between each other and crossed their targets in Jagen 105 and 106. Subsequently, each aircraft flew a circle, each circle varying in diameter, and then the individual aircraft dived at the target from another direction. Without deviating from the course of flight, each aircraft once turned to the left and right, and subsequently dived and, at an altitude of about 1,000 meters, dropped 2 bombs simultaneously. All the swept-back jet aircraft dived slightly farther before reaching level flight. The two bombs exploded at the same time. This air activity by swept-back jet aircraft was repeated on all days mentioned. Further bombing practices by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s approaching from the north-east were conducted on 28 and 29 April. During the night of 21 and 22 April, bombs were dropped from single-engine aircraft. Source believed that each aircraft dropped only one heavy-caliber bomb. The aircraft flew in the beams of two searchlights, including one in Jagen 32 and the other near Fernneueendorf radio installation.

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1. Comment. Kummersdorf bombing range is primarily used by the regiments of Alt Loenewitz ground attack division some aircraft from which land intermediately at Jueterbog airfield. As Il-10s have been observed with all ground attack regiments, the assignment of the bombing Il-10s cannot be determined.

For diagrammatic sketch of bombing activity at Kummersdorf bombing range, see Annex.

2. Comment. Bombing activity by MiG-15s has previously been observed several times at Kummersdorf bombing range. It is believed that the MiG-15s involved usually took off from Jueterbog airfield. On 23 April 1954, another source observed at Jueterbog airfield several MiG-15s which, according to available information, belong to the fighter regiments at Zerbst, Merseburg, Grossenhain and Koethen airfields. According to previous reports, 2 bombs were simultaneously dropped by each MiG-15s. The dropping of 2 bombs at the same time is probably required in order to avoid uneven load factors on the wings.

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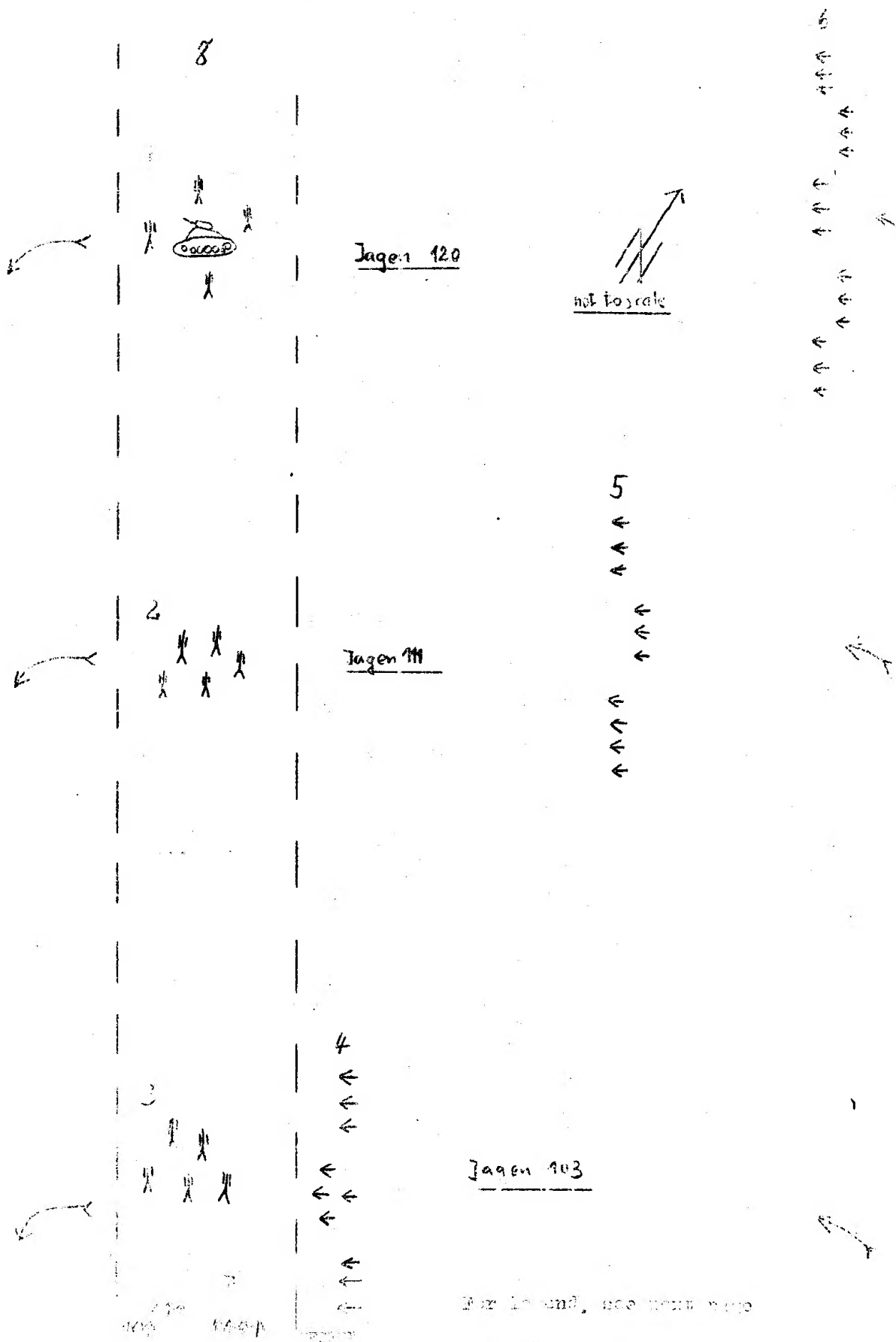
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Bombing Practice by IL-10 Formation Observed at

Kuningsdorf Bombing Range



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Annex

Bombing Practice by Il-10 Formation Observed at Kammersdorf Bombing Range.

- 1 Tank and artillery target in Jagen 120
- 2 Artillery targets in Jagen 111
- 3 Artillery targets in Jagen 103
- 4 to Three waves each of 10 to 15 Il-10s which simultanelusly attack the
6 targets
- 7 Direction of low-level attacks by aircraft weapons, after bombing attacks
- 8 Practice range at Kammersdorf training area.

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